



Writers
of the

PURPLE SAGE

Newsletter of the Ridge Writers

East Sierra Branch, California Writers Club

March 2019



Fiasco, and How to Survive It: The Genesis of *Seduced by Mrs. Robinson*

Beverly Gray will go behind the scenes of writing a book about a landmark movie when she speaks about "Fiasco, and How to Survive It: The Genesis of *Seduced by Mrs. Robinson*" at the Ridge Writers meeting on Thursday, March 7. The meeting begins 6:30 p.m. at Ridgcrest Presbyterian Church, 633 W. Las Flores. The public is welcome and admission is free.

As Gray explains, "Experienced authors know that things do not always go as planned. The challenge is to be resilient enough to survive – and to thrive – after the kind of catastrophe that derails a pet project." Her program will reveal what happened when the publication of another book on the same topic threatened her contract with a major university press. After years of teeth-gnashing, she turned her failed concept into something much better, and was rewarded with a choice of three publishing deals.

In November 2017, to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the film's release, Algonquin Books published her *Seduced by Mrs. Robinson: How The Graduate Became the Touchstone of a Generation*. This exploration of the movie's legacy has attracted national attention and numerous rave reviews.

Gray has spent her career divided between the worlds of the intellect and show biz. While completing her doctorate in Contemporary American Fiction at UCLA, she surprised everyone by taking a job with B-movie legend Roger Corman, for whom she helped develop 170 low-budget feature films. Following her Corman years, she covered the movie industry for The Hollywood Reporter. She has also published *Roger Corman: Blood-Sucking Vampires, Flesh-Eating Cockroaches, and Driller Killers*, now in its third edition, as well as *Ron Howard: From Mayberry to the Moon . . . and Beyond*. Currently she teaches advanced online screenwriting workshops for UCLA Extension's internationally-known Writers' Program, and her popular twice-weekly blog, "Beverly in Movieland," addresses movies, moviemaking, and growing up Hollywood-adjacent.

Expect a fascinating presentation, and bring your friends!

February: Jonathan and Jynafer Yañez spoke about "Authorpreneurship"

The report will follow in next month's *Sage* but, owing to technical difficulties, we don't have it quite yet.



Dickens Festival: However, we can take this opportunity for an update on CWC-South's participation in the Riverside Dickens Festival over the February 23-24 weekend. The weather defied precedent by cooperating beautifully – plenty of glorious sunshine in contrast with too much rain the past few years. CWC members helped at the booth and had animated, enthusiastic conversations with fellow writers who expressed strong interest in attending meetings and joining branches near where they live.

Shown here, left to right, Jodi Rizzotto (Inland Empire Branch) Sharon Backman (from Ridgcrest), and Assunta Vickers (Inland Empire Branch).

Mark Your Calendar...

Apr. 4 – Robert Rotstein, a prolific novelist who wrote the legal thriller *We, The Jury*, he practices intellectual property law and has represented major movie studios and record companies.

May 2 – Internationally best-selling author **Steven Rowley**. His new inside-publishing novel *The Editor* comes hot off the presses in April.



Making the Dream Work

Most of us have probably heard the saying “Teamwork makes the dream work.” And we can all pretty much vouch for the accuracy of that statement. It may feel like writers work in a vacuum. There’s a lot of alone time where it’s you, the page, and the muse. But even that is an important team you have to nourish in order to progress. Without a good team behind you – not just of agents or editors or artists, but also of readers, supporters, and friends – it can be very hard and very lonely to walk the path of the writer.

Working on *Eat Cake*, my new play opening this spring, has really taught me the value of a strong team. For the first real time in my memory, I have a dedicated crew of backstage artists. This is a major difference from the cast members doubling as crew members. The ladies who work in my *Eat Cake* crew have been a huge boost to the productivity of the show and the company. They’ve done makeup designs, wig styling, costume archiving, prop sourcing, stage dressing, ticket cutting, actor dressing, and so on – all the millions of jobs I have had to undertake in the past as a sole crew member. It’s a huge burden off my shoulders and has helped me learn how to delegate job better, how to create priorities to make sure everyone is working at their full potential. As such, the show is progressing smoothly and beautifully, allowing me more time to devote to being a director. All because I built a team to support me and the show.

As a writer, you need a team to help you reach those goals. Not just publishing goals. Every chapter, story, article you finish is another milestone reached.

Build and nourish your team. It could be a group of beta readers to read and critique your work in progress. It could be friends who take you out for a night to keep you sane. It could be an editor who keeps your edits right on track.

And it could be your muse whom you must care for if you want to finish that project.

Because if you can make your team work, you can make the dream work.

Ridge Writers Leaders

President – Daniel Stallings
Vice President – C. R. Rowenson
Secretary – Donna McCrohan Rosenthal
Treasurer – Andrew Sound
Member at Large – John Anderson
Historian – Maryann Butterfield
Newsletter, Interim editors – Donna McCrohan Rosenthal & Daniel Stallings
Programs & Publicity – Donna McCrohan Rosenthal
State Rep – Donna McCrohan Rosenthal
Youth Coordinator – Daniel Stallings
Webmaster – Julianne Black

To reach any of these leaders, use ridgewriters@yahoo.com.
Visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RidgeWriters and our website CWC-ridgewriters.org.

The southern region of the California Writers Club maintains the “zine”-format socialwritersshowcase.com, containing monthly content from members, ranging from fiction, nonfiction/essays, and memoir, to poetry, interviews, discussion on writers’ life, the craft, and news.



The Writers of the Purple Sage is the monthly newsletter of the Ridge Writers, East Sierra Branch of the 109-year-old California Writer Club. Except where otherwise stated, all articles in this publication may be printed without special permission in newsletters of branches of the California Writers Club and in the State Bulletin, subject to the following conditions:

- a. The author’s name and original publication credit must be printed with the text.
- b. The text must be printed in its entirety, without additions or changes.
- c. You must send a copy of the newsletter bearing the reprint to the author.

Contact the editor by mail at P.O. Box 484, Ridgecrest, CA 93556 or by email, ridgewriters@yahoo.com. **SPECIAL NOTICE:** Photographs for publicity and newsletter uses are taken at all Ridge Writers events. By entering the venue, members and guests are granting permission that their likenesses may be used for publicity purposes.

James Tapper reported in the February 16, 2019 edition of *The Guardian* that, “The ever-expanding number of history programmes on television ought to mean boom time for historians. Yet a growing number of authors and academics believe they are being unfairly cut out of the process.

“The complaints range from being left out of a programme’s credits after handing over weeks of research to cases where entire books have been used as the basis for shows, according to Nicola Solomon, chief executive of the society. ‘It is a perennial problem, but there is a rise in complaints,’ she told the *Observer*.”

Read more at www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/16/historians-demand-payment-for-research-in-tv-shows?

Our Jack London Award Winners

We’re proud of the Ridge Writers who have won the Jack London Award, the highest recognition each branch of CWC can give outstanding members. The award was presented annually until 2005, and subsequently only once every two years.

Maryann Butterfield 1997

Casey Wilson 1998

Rlee Peters 1999

Judy Dutcher 2000

Curt Danhauser 2001

Judy Martin 2002

Donna McCrohan Rosenthal 2003

Holly Dworken Cooley 2004

Liz Babcock 2005

Allison Aubin 2007

Steve Wersan 2009*

Margaret Luebs 2013

Daniel Stallings 2015

Julianne DiBlasi Black 2017

*With a special
Charmian London Award
to Fran Wersan

Read the Book, Meet the Author



For this springtime Ridge Writers series, authors give one afternoon program, 2 p.m. at My Enchanted Cottage and Tea Room on March 7, April 4, and May 2, and a different one in the evening for the Ridge Writers

general meeting at Ridgecrest Presbyterian Church, 6:30 p.m.

**March 7 – Beverly Gray - *Seduced by Mrs. Robinson:*
*How The Graduate Became the Touchstone of a Generation***

April 4 – Richard Rotstein – *We, The Jury*

May 2 – Steven Rowley – *The Editor*

For the afternoon “Read the Book, Meet the Author,” participants buy and read the designated book in advance, then discuss it with the author over tea and scones at My Enchanted Cottage.

The event combines the book, tea, scones, conversation with the author, autograph, and entry in a door prize drawing. Tickets are available at Red Rock Books, 206 W. Ridgecrest Blvd., 760-375-3454.

The folks at **Aesthetica Creative Writing Award** have asked us to pass along the following. We cannot endorse but provide it for your consideration: “£1,000 for each winner (Poetry and Short Fiction); publication in the *Aesthetica Creative Writing Anthology*; consultation with Redhammer (Short Fiction Winner); full membership to The Poetry Society (Poetry Winner); *Granta* subscription and books courtesy of Vintage and Bloodaxe. • **Twitter:** *Showcase your work to international audiences and further your involvement in the literary world by entering the 2019 @AestheticaMag #CreativeWritingAward. Enter your work: <http://aestheti.cc/5xdj7>.* • **Facebook:** *Showcase your work to international audiences and further your involvement in the literary world by entering the 2019 @AestheticaMagazine Creative Writing Award. Prizes include; £1,000 cash, publication in within an inspiring anthology and more. Enter your work: <http://aestheti.cc/5xdj7>.”*

CHOOSE TO SNOOZE

According to the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, when you sleep with too much light on, it not surprisingly diminishes sleep quality, but it also increases resistance to insulin and puts you on the path toward Type 2 diabetes.

So sleep, sleep wisely, and sleep well. In the immortal words of JoJo Jensen (*Dirt Farmer Wisdom*, 2002), “Without enough sleep, we all become tall two-year-olds.”

The East Sierra Branch (Ridge Writers) is the California Writers Club branch serving the eastern part of Kern County. Over the mountains on the west side of the county is our Bakersfield-based sister branch, Writers of Kern.



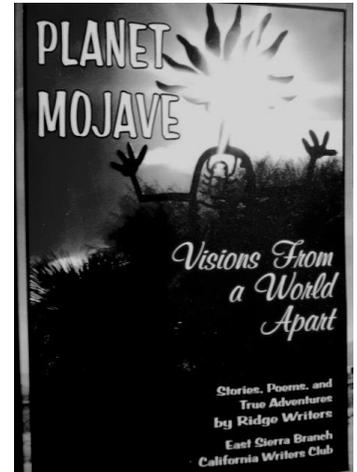
Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale, Saturdays, April 13th and 20th

Find treasures for spring and summer reading starting at 9 a.m. for Ridgecrest Branch Library FOL members or 10 a.m. for the general public, until 3 p.m.
Location: The annex in the Sierra Vista (Old Albertsons) Shopping Center.

Introducing Makerspace

Ridgecrest Acting Branch Supervisor Carissa Wagner recently announced that “Over the next few months, you will see some big changes happening in our library as we make space for the makerspace....

“Our new mission statement is: To build community and cultivate opportunities for Kern County residents by connecting people, ideas, information, and technology.”



Our book *Planet Mojave: Visions From a World Apart* is available at Jawbone Canyon Station, the Historic USO Building, Red Rock Books, Maturango Museum, and online from our website.

Inside ...

Page 1:

March 7 program,
Beverly Gray
and
Report on Dickens Festival
and
Upcoming Speakers

Page 2:

President's Message
and
Ridge Writers Leaders
and
socialwritersshowcase.com

Page 3:

Jack London Awards
and
Read the Book, Meet the
Author

The Ridge Writers
East Sierra Branch
California Writers Club
P.O. Box 484
Ridgecrest, CA 93556